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# Sustainable development: Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its ninth special session

## Report of the Second Committee*

*Rapporteur*: Ms. Vanessa **Gomes** (Portugal)

## I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 53 (see A/61/422, para. 2). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 24th and 34th meetings, on 2 November and 8 December 2006. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/61/SR.24 and 34).

## II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/61/L.19 and A/C.2/61/L.68

2. At the 24th meeting, on 2 November, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its ninth special session" (A/C.2/61/L.19), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 56/193 of 21 December 2001, 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 58/209 of 23 December 2003, 59/226 of 22 December 2004 and 60/189 of 22 December 2005,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/61/422 and Add.1-7.

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"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Taking into account* Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),

"*Reaffirming* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries,

"*Emphasizing* that capacity-building and technology support for developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"1. *Takes note of* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its ninth special session and the decision contained therein;

"2. *Takes note also* of the report of the Secretary-General on universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme;

"3. *Expresses concern* over the lack of progress in the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, in this regard urges Governments and other stakeholders that are in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance for its full implementation, and calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme to fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan through strengthened cooperation with other stakeholders, based on their comparative advantages;

"4. *Welcomes* the endorsement of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management by the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its ninth special session, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide adequate resources to support the Strategic Approach implementation activities of the United Nations Environment Programme;

"5. *Emphasizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and welcomes the continued active participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations Development Group;

"6. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

"7. *Invites* Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Environment Fund to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to discharge its mandate effectively;

"8. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

"9. *Decides* to consider the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme at its sixty-fifth session;

"10. *Decides also* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', a sub-item entitled 'Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session' "

3. At its 34th meeting, on 8 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its ninth special session" (A/C.2/61/L.68), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Benedicto Fonseca Filho (Brazil), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.19.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.68 (see A/C.2/61/SR.34).

5. Also at the same meeting, following a statement by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Benedicto Fonseca Filho (Brazil), the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.68 (see para. 7).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.68, draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.19 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

## III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

### Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its ninth special session

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 56/193 of 21 December 2001, 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 58/209 of 23 December 2003, 59/226 of 22 December 2004 and 60/189 of 22 December 2005,

*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

*Recognizing* the need for more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, and noting the need to consider possible options to address this need,

*Taking into account* Agenda 21[2] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[3]

*Reaffirming* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition,

*Emphasizing* that capacity-building and technology support for developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Recognizing* the need to accelerate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its ninth special session[5] and the decision contained therein;[6]

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/61/25).

[6] Ibid., annex I.

2. *Takes note also* of the report of the Secretary-General on universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme;[7]

3. *Notes* that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its ninth special session discussed all components of the recommendations on international environmental governance as contained in its decision SS.VII/1,[8] and also notes the continued discussions scheduled for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[4] and, in this regard, calls upon Governments as well as other stakeholders that are in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance for its full implementation, and also calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme to continue its efforts to fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan through strengthened cooperation with other stakeholders, based on their comparative advantages;

5. *Welcomes* the endorsement of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management[9] by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme at its ninth special session,[1] and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to engage actively and cooperate closely to support the Strategic Approach implementation activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, including the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme,[10] including through providing adequate resources, as appropriate;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and welcomes the continued active participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group;

7. *Emphasizes* the need for the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to further contribute to sustainable development programmes, the implementation of Agenda 21[2] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[3] at all levels, and to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission;

8. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, as recommended by the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the Programme, including the reinforcement of the scientific capacity of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, including through the provision of adequate financial resources;

[7] A/61/322.

[8] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/57/25), annex I.

[9] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/61/25), annex I.

[10] See SAICM/ICCM.1/7, annex IV.

9. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

10. *Invites* Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Environment Fund;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

12. *Decides* to consider, if necessary, the issue of universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme at its sixty-fourth session, while noting the differences in views expressed so far on this important but complex issue;

13. *Decides also* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session".